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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. CI0057EP	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 02021022.5
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire CFS Palazzolo	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- the European search report
- the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

Abstract

Title

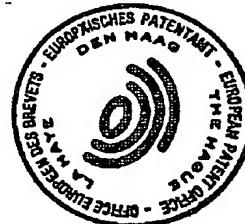
Figure

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

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The invention relates to a sealable packaging container (1) comprising a packaging tray (2) and a packaging lid (3) each having a circumferential area and wherein the area of the lid is larger than the area of the tray (4). The invention further relates to a packaging machine (10) having an upper part (11) and a lower part (12) arranged vertically moveable against each other and means for opening, evacuating and sealing a packaging container (1). Finally the invention relates to a method of sealing a packaging container (1) in this packaging machine (10).



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



European Patent
Office

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 02 02 1022

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-6

Subject I (claims 1-6) relates to a sealable packaging container.

2. Claims: 7-13

Subject II (claims 7-13) relates to a packaging machine having an upper part and a lower part arranged vertically moveable against each other.

3. Claim : 14

Subject III (claim 14) relates to a method of sealing a sealable container which comprises a lid and a tray.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 702 743 A (WELLS CINDIE M) 30 December 1997 (1997-12-30) * column 4, line 47 – line 65; figures *	1, 3	B65D81/20
X	US 3 384 263 A (DANIEL BERNSTEIN) 21 May 1968 (1968-05-21) * column 2, line 38 – line 56; figures *	1, 4	
X	US 4 687 117 A (TERAUDS OSKAR R) 18 August 1987 (1987-08-18) * the whole document *	1	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 226 (M-1254), 26 May 1992 (1992-05-26) & JP 04 044926 A (SHIKOKU KAKOKI CO LTD), 14 February 1992 (1992-02-14) * abstract *	7, 8, 14	
X	US 4 409 252 A (BUSCHKENS GUIDO ET AL) 11 October 1983 (1983-10-11) * the whole document *	7, 8, 14	
A	WO 00 15431 A (PEDERSEN STEEN) 23 March 2000 (2000-03-23) * figures *	1	B65D B65B
A	US 4 221 102 A (LANG HANS-JOERG ET AL) 9 September 1980 (1980-09-09) * the whole document *	7	
A	EP 0 214 372 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 18 March 1987 (1987-03-18) * the whole document *	7	
A	US 4 154 044 A (LANG HANS-JORG) 15 May 1979 (1979-05-15) * the whole document *	7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
6	Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 18 July 2003	Examiner Fournier, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 02 1022

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-07-2003

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